



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Wednesday, May 10, 2006

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## **Hearing: “Creating a Nationwide, Integrated Biosurveillance Network”**

**WHO:** Subcommittee on Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack  
Chairman John Linder (R-GA)

**WHEN:** 2:00 pm, Thursday, May 11, 2006

**WHERE:** 1311 Longworth House Office Building

### **WITNESSES**

**Dr. Kimothy Smith**

Chief Veterinarian, Acting Deputy Chief Medical Officer  
Department of Homeland Security

**Dr. John Vitko**

Director, Director of Biological Countermeasures  
Department of Homeland Security

**Dr. Rich Besser**

Director, Coordinating Office of Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Ms. Ellen Embrey**

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Health Protection and Readiness  
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.

**Dr. John Clifford**

Deputy Administrator for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Veterinary  
Services' program  
Department of Agriculture

## **BACKGROUND**

The Subcommittee on Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack will convene on Thursday, May 11, 2006 to hear from representatives of federal government agencies contributing to the creation of a new integrated biosurveillance network. The hearing will emphasize the progress made and challenges facing DHS in developing the National Biosurveillance Integration System (NBIS) – intended to be the single focal point for the analysis, integration, and dissemination of animal, plant, food, human health, water, environmental, and climate surveillance data.

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